

PTO/SB/30 (10-01)

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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**  
Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

|                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Application Number     | 09/915,865                    |
| Filing Date            | July 26, 2001                 |
| First Named Inventor   | Richard R. Sharpe, Jr. et al. |
| Art Unit               | 1743                          |
| Examiner Name          | Brian J. Sines                |
| Attorney Docket Number | 2009-174 (81841.0155)         |

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This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114**

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees**

- The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- a. ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1314
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) \$790
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) \$450
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)
- WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

|                   |                        |                  |             |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Name (Print Type) | Barry M. Shuman        | Registration No. | 50,220      |
| Signature         | <i>Barry M. Shuman</i> | Date             | May 2, 2005 |

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

|                   |                   |      |             |
|-------------------|-------------------|------|-------------|
| Name (Print Type) | Diane Zynn        | Date | May 2, 2005 |
| Signature         | <i>Diane Zynn</i> |      |             |

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Appl. No. 09/915,865  
Amdt. Dated May 2, 2005  
Reply to Final Office Action of November 30, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 2009-174 (81841.0155)  
Customer No. 26021

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Richard R. Sharpe, Jr. et al.

Serial No: 09/915,865

Filed: July 26, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
OBJECT-ORIENTED REAL-TIME  
MECHANICAL CONTROL OF  
AUTOMATED CHEMISTRY  
INSTRUMENTS

Confirmation No.: 7692

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Brian J. Sines

I hereby certify that this correspondence  
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(703) 872-9306:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

May 2, 2005  
Date of Deposit

Diane Zynn

Name

Signature

05/02/05  
Date

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated November 30, 2004, and Advisory Action dated March 29, 2005, the time for response which has been extended by the enclosed petition to April 30, 2005, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.